

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 918

By McNally

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend William Terry of Oak Ridge High School on his selection as a Presidential Scholar semifinalist.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to pay tribute to those students who, through their natural talents and unflagging commitment to excellence, have distinguished themselves both in the classroom and in their respective communities; and

WHEREAS, William Terry of Oak Ridge High School is one such exceptional student who was recently named a semifinalist in the United States Presidential Scholars awards program; and

WHEREAS, the Presidential Scholars program is extremely competitive; only 550 semifinalists are selected nationwide, and a maximum of 141 students will be chosen from among this elite group as 2006 Presidential Scholars, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Terry is one of only twelve semifinalists from Tennessee this year; his selection is truly a testament to his impeccable academic record; and

WHEREAS, established in 1964 by Executive Order of the President of the United States to recognize and honor the nation's most distinguished graduating high school seniors, the Presidential Scholar program was expanded in 1979 to recognize those students who demonstrate exceptional talent in the visual, creative, and performing arts; and

WHEREAS, for over forty years, this unique program has honored over 5,000 Presidential Scholars who have demonstrated leadership, scholarship, and contribution to school and community; and

WHEREAS, the Scholars represent excellence in education and the promise of greatness in young people; in honoring the Presidential Scholars, the President of the United States symbolically honors all graduating high school seniors of high potential; and

WHEREAS, a Senior at Oak Ridge High School, where he is highly regarded by his peers, William has achieved an exemplary grade point average and has earned outstanding scores on the ACT, SAT, and AP tests; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his status as a stellar scholar, this exceptional young man is an esteemed leader among his peers, and he serves with distinction as President of his Senior Class; and

WHEREAS, a valuable participant in his school's activities and his community's affairs, Mr. Terry is a member of several academic, social, and civic organizations, including Young Democrats; and

WHEREAS, a true Renaissance man who is a finalist in the 2006 National Merit Scholarship Program, Mr. Terry will continue his education as a student at Harvey Mudd College this fall; and

WHEREAS, William Terry has evidenced a strong commitment to public service and good citizenship at an early age, and he volunteers his time and considerable talents to worthy causes, including the Children's Museum; and

WHEREAS, William's noteworthy achievement is a tremendous source of pride for his parents, James William and Elizabeth Terry, his school, and his community; and

WHEREAS, William Terry's dedication to excellence is clearly deserving of the respect, admiration, and commendation of this legislative body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend William Terry upon his selection as a semifinalist in the Presidential Scholars program, salute his brilliant academic career thus far, and extend to him our best wishes for a happy, successful future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.